GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4265
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
DEATH OF CHILDREN DUE TO DIARRHOEA
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the number of children dying of diarrhoea every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the manner in which the Government is providing assistance to the States in this regard; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to eradicate this disease ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR.ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (d): As per the percentage distribution of deaths due to specific causes under the major group `causes peculiar to infancy` for selected states, 2.4% of deaths were due to diarrhoea of the new born. No specific survey to ascertain the exact number of deaths due to diarrhoea has been carried out.

The Government of India is implementing the second phase of the Reproductive and Child health programme under which measures are taken to control deaths due to diarrhoea. Supplies of Oral Rehydration Salts(ORS) as part of Kit A are made to all Primary Health Centres throughout the country for distribution free of cost to all patients of diarrhoea. Training of health care personnel on management of diarrhoea to prevent deaths and advocacy for use of ORS are an ongoing activity. Further safe drinking water and improvement in sanitation services are recognized as important interventions in preventing diarrhea. Government of India is implementing the Central Rural Sanitation Programme. Under this , the Department of Drinking Water Supply is implementing Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Government of India has sanctioned Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects in 520 districts of the country to improve the sanitation scenario in the villages. The objectives of the TSC programme are to bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, accelerate sanitation coverage and generate felt demand for sanitation facilities through awareness creation and Health Education . Further the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) recently launched by the Government of India seeks to converge health concerns with determinants of health, sanitation, hygiene, nutrition & safe drinking water.

The efforts are focused on minimizing the incidence and eliminating deaths due to diarrhoea.